

## **Riparian Responsibility - Doing Your Part**

Over the last several years, the City has devoted much time and money to enhancing its rivers and lakes by: co-hosting healthy lawn care workshops; training staff on best management practices; conducting periodic water quality monitoring; and installing and maintaining rain gardens throughout the community.

Everyone can do their part to protect and enhance the lakes and streams, especially those that live along the waterways.

- **Prevent runoff** – Border your lawn with deep-rooted plants and flowers to prevent water runoff. Direct down spouts into garden areas, or install rain barrels to collect water.
- **No Dumping** – NEVER dump any yard debris, chemicals, or any other materials into your rivers or lakes. Yard waste deposited in the waterways can cause significant changes in nutrient levels, leading to poor water quality. Report any potential illegal dumping to the City.
- **Maintain a buffer** – Leave a no-mow, fertilizer-free buffer area of at least 10 feet along the waterway to prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- **Mow grass high** – A 2 ½ to 3 inch cutting height is perfect to foster deep roots that prevent soil erosion. Cutting the grass shorter than 2 inches will limit its ability to store food in the spring. Avoid stockpiling or burning grass clippings, leaves and other debris along streambanks.
- **Fertilize this Fall** – Fall is generally the best time to apply fertilizers or pesticides to your lawn. Disease and weed problems usually are less severe overall when fall applications are made. Do not use weed or pest control products near streambanks or lake shores. Select a no phosphorus, slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to protect water quality.

